



# Tale Feathers

## State Ornithologist to Speak at County Library, Feb. 11 at 8 pm



Jim D. Wilson, Missouri Department of Conservation ornithologist, will speak on *Birding Projects in Missouri* at S. Louis Audubon's February joint meeting with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. Several new programs, including the identification of *Important Bird Areas*, are underway. Jim will keep us informed of these and other birding activities taking

place in Missouri.

The Friday evening meeting will be held at 8:00 pm on February 11, 2000, in the large auditorium in the Headquarters Building at the St. Louis County Library in Frontenac, MO (near the Clayton Road/Lindbergh Blvd. intersection). Mark your calendars now for this first meeting of the new millennium.

### In this issue

#### Events

- State Ornithologist to Speak 1
- Rainforest Ruckus/Peru Birds 6
- Great Backyard Bird Count 10

#### Features

- Meet Joe Eades 3
- David Tylka, Candidate 4
- Wild-hatched Peregrines 6
- Scholarships/Awards 7
- SLAS Membership Form 7
- Remembering Phoebe 9

#### Birding

- Project Feederwatch 1
- More Birdbath Tales 2
- SLAS Birding 2
- Spring Birding Trips 3
- International Birding Trips 5
- Birdings, A Renewable Interest 7
- Bird Seed Sale 8

#### Columns

- Volunteers Needed 7
- In Memory 11
- Board Members 11

## Project Feederwatch

By Jim Holsen

Project Feederwatch documents population changes of bird species that visit winter feeders. Using data from approximately 14,000 volunteers throughout the United States and Canada, Project Feederwatch maps changes in bird population over time. Animated graphics on the web site, <http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>, illustrate how data are used to determine which species are extending their winter ranges, which species are in danger, and which are contracting their ranges. This information is used to guide scientists, conservationists, and policy-makers. Project Feederwatch, which began in 1987, is a joint research and education project of the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Bird Studies Canada, and the Canadian Nature Federation.

Those interested in participating in this or other citizen science bird projects should investigate the web site <http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>. Alternatively, contact the web site for the Missouri Audubon Council at [www.audubon.org/chapter/mo/mo](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mo/mo) and find the link to *birds.cornell.edu*. One can also call Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Project Services at 1-800-843-BIRD (2473) or e-mail [cornellbirds@cornell.edu](mailto:cornellbirds@cornell.edu).

A fee of \$15.00 is required to defray costs of collating and publishing the data. Participants who volunteer for the program are given a password and an ID number. They are asked to monitor the species at their feeder on a weekly or biweekly basis and to relay that data to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology via the internet or by mail. The program operates from November through April, however, there is still time to make a meaningful contribution this winter.

This is a citizen science program in which everyone can contribute. For further information, call Mary Dueren at 576-1473.

St. Louis Audubon Society

# Birding

with St. Louis Audubon

By Jim Malone

## More Birdbath Tales

By Sue A. Leonard

My little yard contains three bird baths and a small pond, which has been made "bird-safe". By far, the funniest bird bath stories from my yard feature the accursed starlings.

**May 3:** All young starlings leave nests simultaneously. Raucous, noisy, they splash endlessly in bird bath on ground.

**May 4:** Found pond. Two play under fountain in pond, flapping, splashing under overhanging rocks. Some on lawn too saturated to fly.

**Fast forward to September:** All kids grown and out of nest, responsibilities nil. Spend golden days congregating at bird baths, splashing, running in circles like children in a pool.

**Fast forward to winter:** Pond frozen except for hole from heater. Starlings all over pond. Two take turns drinking at hole. Others happy on ice. Suddenly, fight breaks out like at hockey game. Entire crowd skating furiously on little orange legs, slipping, sliding, falling down.

Now for one non-starling entry:

**Early March:** Little pond has thawed. Female dove repeatedly swims across pond back and forth, then lies on her side at edge and lifts wings to air-dry. Repeats performance for several days.

Do you have an unusual birdbath or bird feeder tale or photo? Share it with us. Send your submissions to **Tale Feathers**.

## Tale Feathers

**Tale Feathers** is published bi-monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society (SLAS). Messenger Printing of Kirkwood prints approximately 3,000 copies of each issue on recycled paper using soy ink. The newsletter is edited by Ellen McCallie with assistance from Reine Keis Bayoc.

The deadline for the April issue is March 10. Please send photos, articles, events, and letters to Ellen McCallie, Newsletter Editor.

e-mail stltalefeathers@yahoo.com  
ph/fax 314/966-4131  
post 705 W. Essex Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63122-3630

Late fall birding is always difficult to predict, but there are locations around St. Louis that have repeatedly proven their worth. On December 11th, we met at Horseshoe Lake State Park and birded much of the area. The day started with a huge group of Bonaparte's Gulls, a Belted Kingfisher, and a few Pied-billed Grebes along the shores of the state park area. Moving to the Route 203 side of the lake, the borrow pits rewarded us with great views of a Hairy Woodpecker and a small variety of sparrows. Picking through the vast array of gulls at the borrow pit gave us views of Ring-billed Gulls in various plumages, a couple of Herring Gulls, and a first winter Tayer's Gull. Returning to the lake, we found Mallards, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Mergansers, a Black Duck, Ruddy Ducks, Lesser Scaup, and more Pied-billed Grebes. All in all, it was a day of good birding with good people!

### February 19 (Saturday) Horseshoe Lake, Southern IL.

By February, waterfowl hunting on the lake should be done, so we will have access to Walker Island and views of the area South of the causeway. Ducks also return in numbers when they figure out that they won't get shot at on the lake any more. This trip will focus on waterfowl at the lake and gulls which flock to the borrow pit between feedings at the nearby landfill (yum).

We meet at Horseshoe Lake State Park in the first parking lot on the right at 9:00 AM. To get there, take I-55/7 east across the Mississippi, exit at Route 111 and travel North (left) to the park entrance.

### March 4 (Saturday) Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge

One of the best places to find Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, and even American White Pelicans in winter is the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge in Calhoun County, Illinois. This sight is a great location for waterfowl, long-eared owls, wintering bald eagles, and a nice assortment of wintering sparrows. This will be an all-day trip, so bring a lunch and plan on seeing lots of great birds.

We meet at the Brussels Ferry and venture forth from there. To get there, cross the Mississippi at Alton, Illinois, then go left onto Highway 100 (Great River Road). Follow Highway 100 through Grafton to the Brussels Ferry. Park across route 100 from the Ferry.

### March 12 (Sunday) Horseshoe Lake Sparrow Roundup

Not only is Horseshoe Lake a great location for waterfowl, but it also has wonderful habitat for migrating sparrows in the spring and fall. This trip was timed to place us in the Horseshoe Lake area at the peak of Spring Sparrow migration. We hope to get close views of LeConte's, Savannah, Vespers, Eurasian Tree, and possibly Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

We will still meet at the Horseshoe Lake State Park side of the lake and bird there first. See directions above.

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**Did you know that**  
**St. Louis Audubon Society**  
**sponsors international birding trips?**

*See page 5 for information.*

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# Spring Birding Trips

## Prairie Chicken Weekend

April (7-) 8

Last Spring, Bill Rowe led us to central Missouri to visit Greater Prairie Chicken leks and a number of other great birding sights. The response to this trip was so overwhelming that we had to turn away several people to keep the crowd from growing too large. This year we are offering a similar trip to High Lonesome Prairie, Mora Conservation area, Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, and University of Missouri's Bradford Farms on Saturday April 8th. Since we will begin at 5:30 Saturday morning, we will spend Friday evening in Sedalia. As with last year's trip, we will handle room reservations, you just need to let us know how many plan to attend. Last year, everyone had great views (close enough to fully appreciate the sounds associated with this wonder) of the dancing Prairie Chickens on two separate leks. We saw the best of what prairie, wetland, and open field birding has to offer in early spring. The list included scores of Henslow's Sparrows, Vesper Sparrow, a few Upland Sandpipers (heard but not seen), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, close-up views of a LeConte's Sparrow, a fleeing Smith's Longspur, and a nice variety of waterfowl and raptors. This trip provides an opportunity to sharpen those spring birding skills before the main thrust of migration.

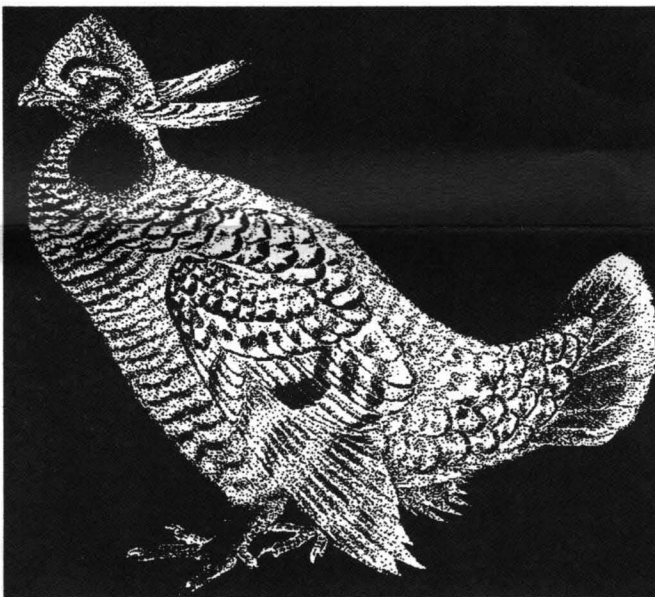
In order for everyone to have an equal opportunity to register for this trip, we are advertising it now and will begin accepting reservations by phone or e-mail beginning February 1st. First consideration will be given to those who applied last year after we were all booked up. It may be necessary to limit numbers of participants this year, but we will do our best to accommodate everyone. To make a reservation for this trip, call Jim Malone at (636) 536-1119 or e-mail [stlaud@inlink.com](mailto:stlaud@inlink.com) after February 1, 2000, and we will do the rest. This was a great trip last year and we are looking forward to a repeat this time around!

Reservations begin February 1.

## Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms Trip

May 25-28

Last year we offered a late spring trip to Great Bend Kansas to visit Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Cheyenne Bottoms Conservation Area, and the Nature Conservancy holdings near Great Bend. The announcements for last year's trip may not have been made early enough for people to get away, but those of us who went saw a great assortment of birds and had a wonderful extended weekend! This year we will be visiting Great Bend from May 25th to May 28th. Much of Thursday and Sunday will be consumed driving, but we will have ample time to bird on Friday and Saturday.



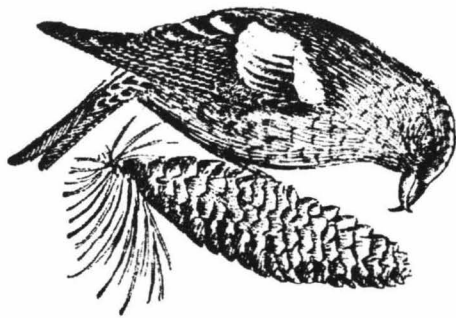
Late May is a special time for central Kansas wetland birding. Resident breeding species like Wilson's Phalaropes, Great-Tailed Grackles, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Black Rails, Virginia Rails, Grebes, Ibis', Mississippi Kites, Snowy Plovers, Least Terns, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds have established nesting sites, and the late shorebird migrants are still hanging around. Quivira National Wildlife Refuge contains two large salt marshes, numerous smaller freshwater lakes, woods, prairies, and just about everything in between. Cheyenne Bottoms in May is a haven for Ibis', Grebes (often including Western and Clark's Grebes), shorebirds, icterids, Barn Owls, and Franklin's Gulls (to

name but a few). Our trip last year yielded nearly all of the above mentioned birds as well as Burrowing owls, Upland Sandpipers, and even a Black-Billed Magpie!

Some areas on this trip do not readily allow parking for numerous vehicles, so we may limit the number of participants to 20-25. Since this trip is being offered to Audubon and WGNSS members alike, we want to give everyone an equal opportunity to reserve a spot. If this sounds like a trip you don't want to miss, call Jim Malone at (636) 536-1119 or e-mail [stlaud@inlink.com](mailto:stlaud@inlink.com) no earlier than April 1st. We will send you an information package about the trip and reserve a room for you.

Reservations begin April 1.





## Meet Natureboy Joe Eades

By Joe Eades

The overcast, mid-December afternoon changed my life. I was twelve, running up the back stairs of our old, three-story home in Webster Groves with Bob Shea and David Symes, the two

best friends of my childhood. Outside the third floor window, just a few feet away, was a commotion in a giant old hemlock. We peered through the glass, spying a group of five birds. Two were brick red with black wings and tails. Three were olive green with black wings and tails. The birds clambered about, feeding on tiny hemlock cones. They reminded me of small parrots as they used their beaks to help them climb through the branches. In profile, their beaks were strongly hooked. Bob and David thought the birds might be Purple Finches, but after consulting *Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds*, I was convinced they were Red Crossbills. Identifying such a rare and unusual group of birds "hooked" me on bird watching.

At a young age, I depended on the great people in the Audubon society and WGNSS to take me afield to see what kind of birds there were outside my backyard. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to many people—a few I must mention. Betty Samuelson first kindled my interest by inviting me into her warm home and spending long hours talking with me about bird watching. Katherine Arhos took me birding constantly in my first year or so. Dave Jones became my dear friend and mentor. He put about 30,000 miles on his car covering the territory, while helping me put together a "big year" in the St. Louis area in 1976. Jim and Charlene Malone for bringing me back into the birding community.

I have always been a nature lover. In school, I was nicknamed "natureboy". It was appropriate as it fills my soul with satisfaction to be out in nature. I love to fish and to hunt mushrooms. I have collected butterflies and other insects, hunted lizards and snakes and kept them as pets, and, of course, I watch birds.

Another highlight of my birding career occurred at sunset on December 18, 1976. While putting the finishing touches on the Pere Marquette Christmas Bird Count, I went down a little back road along a slough in Calhoun County, looking for a rusty blackbird. Too late, all the birds had gone to bed. I could hear them twittering and chattering in a cedar tree. Out of frustration, I reached out and pulled on one of the branches. When I let it go, a flock of birds flew out. I looked over the juncos and robins and came across the only Varied Thrush ever seen in the St. Louis area.

*Joe Eades grew up in St. Louis and is a St. Louis Audubon Society board member. In an effort to introduce board members to the larger membership, **Tale Feathers** asks board members to share a bit about themselves and/or their birdwatching.*

Seen something interesting?  
Feel strongly about an issue?  
Have a great photo?

Send submissions for the April issue of **Tale Feathers** by March 10.

## From Our President

### David Tylka and the Audubon Board

by Jim Holsen

At its January meeting the Board of the St. Louis Audubon Society nominated David Tylka as a candidate for a position on the Board of Directors for the National Audubon Society (NAS). The thirty-six-member board of the NAS includes nine members who are elected by chapters in each of the nine regions of the country. St. Louis is in the West Central Region, which includes the two Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Iowa and Missouri. Chapters will vote in the early summer and the elected regional board director will take office at the beginning of the year 2001.

Tylka is well-known in the community and is a biology professor at Meramec Community College. He was an urban biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. He has served as an officer and on the boards of many environmental groups, including St. Louis Audubon, the Open Space Council, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, and the Wolf Sanctuary. He served as natural resource coordinator for the professional design team that prepared the recent Forest Park Master Plan.

Tylka's talents have been widely recognized by environmental and educational institutions in St. Louis. In 1998, he received the Faculty Lecture Award from the faculty of the St. Louis Community College at the Meramec campus. He has also received awards from the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The American Institute of Architects recently recognized Tylka for his work with the Forest Park Master Plan design team.

Tylka has served on the Board of St. Louis Audubon as its vice president and president. He led the Society in the preparation of two strategic plans, which guided the Society to its present focus on conservation and education.

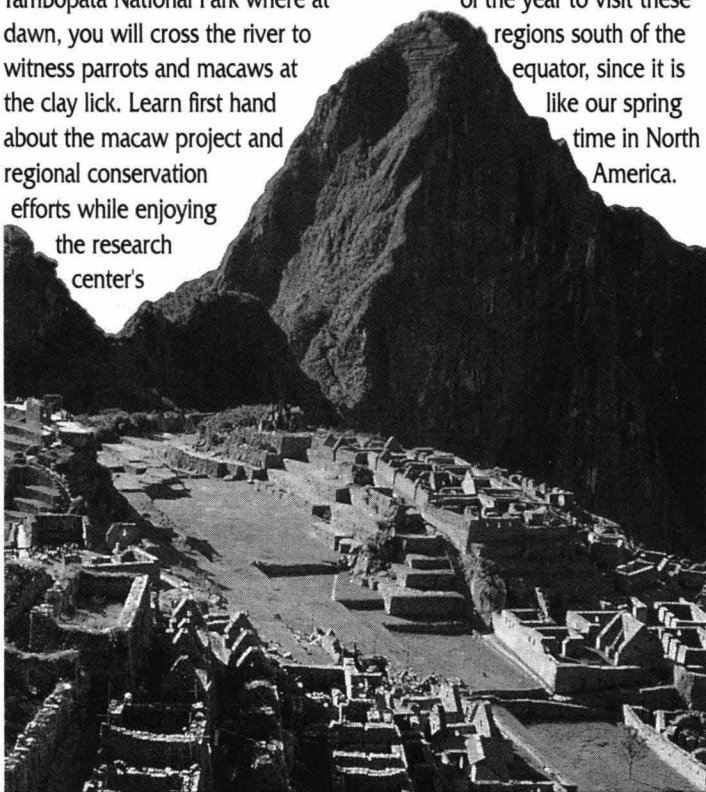
# Kaleidoscope of Color A Wildlife Expedition to Peru

**Featuring Tambopata National Park  
September 2000**

Join Paul Bauer and the St. Louis Audubon Society and journey up the Amazon River by covered longboats to Posada Amazonas, a beautiful lodge nestled in the rainforest. Treks through the rainforest reveal a brilliant world of brightly-colored macaws, herons, kingfishers and cormorants. Using a stable pontoon boat we also quietly explore the forest edge along the shore of a backwater lagoon, where we can see the bizarre hoatzin, and watch a family of river otters at play. Continue to Tambopata National Park where at dawn, you will cross the river to witness parrots and macaws at the clay lick. Learn first hand about the macaw project and regional conservation efforts while enjoying the research center's

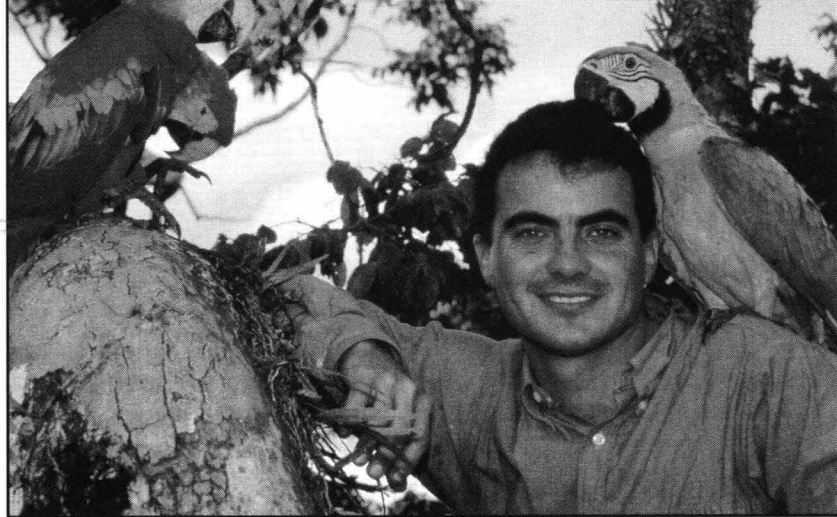
rustic charms. Tambopata in the rich Amazon River basin is reported to have the most diverse and bird-rich habitat. For one location they can boast the biggest birdlist in the world; a mindboggling 587 species and growing! In a typical visit we may expect 300 species of tropical birds. An optional extension is available to discover the archaeological splendor of Cuzco and Machu Picchu, the mountaintop sanctuary of the Incas, hidden from the world until 1911. September is the best time

of the year to visit these regions south of the equator, since it is like our spring time in North America.



For itineraries or more information, call:  
Paul Bauer at the St. Louis Audubon Society at (314) 921-3972

Photo Credit: Rainforest Expeditions, Gerry Ellis/ENP Images and Joe Lisanti



If you can't travel on this tour, but are looking for other exciting travel opportunities, why not join the St. Louis Audubon Society for one or more of the following wildlife adventures:

## ***A World in One Country*** ***South Africa*** **November 2000**

With Renowned Birder & Naturalist, Ken Newman

From cosmopolitan Cape Town to the wildlife of the award-winning Mala Mala Game Reserve, discover the beautiful diversity that is South Africa. Your safari



begins in one of the world's most beautiful cities, graced with Dutch architecture and the geological signature of Cape Town: Table Mountain. Escorted by Ken Newman, author and artist of Newman's Birds of Southern Africa, experience at a most enjoyable pace some of the finest bird-watching sites in South Africa including Hluhluwe, Ndumo and the private reserve adjacent to

Kruger with almost 500 species of birds. Continue to Mala Mala, home to lion, leopard, elephant and the best team of safari guides on the planet. Because the reserve is private, you see nature as it was meant to be seen, far from the madding crowd. In 1999 our Audubon group had 316 species of birds and 32 species of mammals. Can we do better this year? Throughout, your accommodations are not just superior, but some of the best on the continent. An optional extension is also available to majestic Victoria Falls.

## ***Classic Wildlife Safari to Tanzania*** **February 2001**

Your safari begins in one of Tanzania's best kept secrets, Tarangire National Park, where you can watch as the elephant herds drink from the river, the only permanent water supply for miles around. Drive across the Great Rift Valley to Lake Manyara, a small park famous for its elusive tree-climbing lion. Descend 2,000 feet by Land Rover into Ngorongoro Crater, Africa's "Garden of Eden." Then onto the Serengeti in the midst of the annual migration when thunderous herds of wildebeest make a hazardous trek across the plains in search of fertile grasslands. The timing of the trip is ideal since it coincides with the calving season for the wildebeest, and also because many "European" birds are still wintering in Africa. Throughout the safari your accommodations are designed to



complement and integrate the beauty of their natural surroundings from the cottages nestled into the lush forest of the Ngorongoro Highlands on Gibb's Farm to the lodge perched on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater to your mobile tented camp in the Serengeti in proximity to the migration, to your tree lodge built atop ancient baobab trees in Tarangire. Our guide, James Ngethe, has over 30 years of experience with birds and mammals in East Africa.

# Wild-hatched Peregrine Falcon Flies Free in St. Louis Skies

By Simon Davies

Many of you are familiar with the Peregrine Falcon, characterized by their long, narrow wings and aerodynamic profile, and as the speedsters of the bird world. But, how familiar are you with their recent history? Not very?

The Peregrine Falcon was once found all across the United States, from California to Maine, from the Canadian border to the Texas coast. However, in the 1940's and 1950's, their populations plummeted. The widespread use of the pesticide DDT across the United States had an insidious effect on the Peregrine Falcon, along with many other birds of prey. The pesticide

interfered with the eggshell production in female falcons, causing them to lay eggs with abnormally thin shells. These eggs were unable to develop normally, so successful breeding virtually ceased across the U.S. The Peregrine Falcon was listed as an endangered species in 1972 as there were fewer than 20 nesting pairs in the lower 48 states. With the 1973 ban of DDT and the beginning of reintroduction programs, Peregrine populations began to slowly increase. Today, approximately 1500 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons are estimated in the lower 48 states.

The process of releasing falcons is called "hacking" and involves the use of an

artificial nest box known as a hack box. Young falcons, with downy feathers, are placed in the hack box when they are approximately 4 weeks of age and remain there until they develop mature feathers. This usually takes ten days. A radio transmitter is then attached to the birds and the front of the box is removed. Food is still provided for the youngsters as they begin to learn to fly, land (very important!!), and hunt on their own. Typically, they remain in the general vicinity of the box for 4 to 6 weeks following their release. As they develop their flying skills, they begin to chase one another, and any other birds nearby, through the sky. The grace and beauty of these raptors is a marvel to behold.

You may be saying to yourself, "That's wonderful news, and very interesting...but why the excitement?" Good question! My personal excitement about the Peregrine Falcon began in 1994, when Monsanto began a release program in conjunction with the World Bird Sanctuary. A male falcon, named Apollo by the employee-volunteers, was released that year. In 1996, Apollo returned to St. Louis with a female from Little Rock, Arkansas, and nested on the Interco Building in Clayton. In 1997, four young falcons fledged from that nest and were banded by the World Bird Sanctuary. On January 2, 2000, I saw one of those young falcons in the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area. To see the graceful form of a wild-hatched peregrine falcon overhead and to know that our release program was responsible for that federally endangered bird being there was a magical moment.

Do you have a bird or nature story to share? Send it to **Tale Feathers!** See information on page 2.



## ***Annual Winter Blow Out!***

**Celebrate rainforests and their preservation.**

***Tropical snacks provided!***

***FREE to all.***

St. Louis Rainforest Advocates'

## **Rainforest Ruckus!**

**Date: 01/29/00**

**Time: 7-10 pm**

**Missouri Botanical Garden,  
Beaumont Room**

**Theme: *Conservation of Birds in Peru***

**Speaker: *Grace Servat*, Amazon ornithologist and  
Ph.D. candidate at UM-St. Louis**

**Jim Wilson, State Ornithologist,  
February 11 at 8 pm.**



# Scholarships and Awards

for St. Louis Educators, Legislators, Students, and Citizens

By Julie Leemann

Each year the St. Louis Audubon Society presents awards and scholarships to local educators, legislators, students, and citizens at its spring banquet. Applications and nominations for this year's honors are due February 15. Think about deserving St. Louisians whom you know. Consider nominating them for an award or encourage them to apply for a scholarship.

Audubon Ecology Camp scholarships for educators cover the cost of the 6 to 7 day camp and \$200.00 toward the cost of transportation.

Student awards encourage and support graduating high school seniors who plan further study in ecology or related fields.

The St. Louis Audubon Society's *Conservationist of the Year*, the *Robert I. Terry Award*, and the *St. Louis Legislator of the Year Award* recognize citizens and legislators whose work support the mission of the Audubon Society. Scholarships and awards will be presented at St. Louis Audubon's annual banquet on April 9, 2000 at Powder Valley Nature Center near the junction of I-270 and I-44.

All nominations should be sent by February 15 to:

Julie Leemann  
1004 Sanders Dr.  
Crestwood, Mo 63126  
(314) 962-2093 (evenings)

# Birding, It's a Renewable Interest

By Jim Holsen

Many local birders keep an annual list of birds seen within fifty miles of the St. Louis city limits. Some birders set a goal of seeing at least 200 different species each year. (Accomplished birders will have a list of 260 to 270 species.)

At the end of each December, my wife and I look at our list and see many common species that we missed for one reason or another—work, sickness, visitors on critical days, or the necessity to paint a porch or mow the lawn. We particularly regret missing a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, an Osprey, a Ring-necked Pheasant, and several other common species from this past year. We wonder how we could have missed these.

We realize, however, that one of the real pleasures of birding is the chance to start over fresh every January 1, with the expectation that the new year will be better than the last. Even House Sparrows and Starlings are welcomed on that first day as we build our list. We check the feeders outside the kitchen window first and then visit Riverlands and the Busch Conservation Area.

How many occupations offer this opportunity to start over with a fresh slate, to vow to do better than we did in the year past, and to provide so much enjoyment in the process?



## Volunteers Needed

### Speakers Bureau for Elementary Classrooms

Are you interested in birds? Do you enjoy talking with young people? Consider joining the St. Louis Audubon Society's Speakers Bureau. Training will be a total of 15 hours. Call Vicki Flier (314/822-6595) for applications.

Speakers will be available free to schools and will cover topics ranging from conservation to biology. In addition, each student will receive an Audubon Adventures newsletter relating to the topic discussed.

### International Migratory Bird Week Events

Volunteers are needed for Audubon events at the St. Louis Zoo and Missouri Botanical Garden on May 6 and 13, respectively. Interested in helping? Call Pat McCormick (314/825-2842 or Dale Ponce (314/394-6011).



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## St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

Membership category desired:

- |                                            |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory/\$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$35         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Citizen/\$21  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Citizen Family/\$23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/\$40       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining/\$50         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting/\$100  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (____)            |

**Send check made out to  
National Audubon Society to:  
419 E. Argonne Drive  
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

# St. Louis Audubon Society

Order by: Jan. 26

Send your check payable to  
St. Louis Audubon, OR

Call Vicki Flier by Jan. 26  
(314-966-9166).

## Bird Seed Sale

Pick-up: Feb. 4-5

Please pick up your bird seed at the Essex Parking Lot of Kirkwood High School, 801 W. Essex, Kirkwood.

From Manchester Rd. and Lindbergh Blvd. (which becomes Kirkwood Rd.) go about one mile south to Essex Ave. Turn right (west) and go one mile to parking lot.

Fri., Feb. 4, 6:30 to 7:30 pm  
Sat., Feb. 5, 9 to 11 am.

Black Oil Sunflower Seed   Safflower Seed   Thistle/Niger

### No-Waste Mix

No-Waste Mix is composed of millet, fine cracked corn, sunflower, wheat, and safflower. (This mix is called no-waste because it has no Milo.)

### Premium No-Waste Mix

Premium No-Waste Mix is composed of millet (red and white), coarse sunflower chips (no hulls), and fine cracked corn. (This mix is the one you want for no clean-up areas as it contains no hulls.)

**Support St. Louis Audubon education programs. Buy our bird seed!**

We offer competitive prices and excellent products.

Questions? Call us.

Vicki Flier: 314/966-9166  
Ellen McCallie: 314/966-4131

## Bird Seed Order Form

| Product                            | Total           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Black oil sunflower seed</b>    |                 |
| 25 lb. / \$10 _____ x \$10 =       | _____           |
| 50 lb. / \$16 _____ x \$16 =       | _____           |
| <b>No-Waste Mix</b>                |                 |
| 25 lb. / \$7 _____ x \$7 =         | _____           |
| 50 lb. / \$14 _____ x \$14 =       | _____           |
| <b>Premium No-Waste Mix</b>        |                 |
| 20 lb. / \$8.50 _____ x \$7 =      | _____           |
| 40 lb. / \$16 _____ x \$14 =       | _____           |
| <b>Safflower Seed</b>              |                 |
| 25 lb. / \$14 _____ x \$14 =       | _____           |
| 50 lb. / \$27 _____ x \$27 =       | _____           |
| <b>Thistle/Niger</b>               |                 |
| 10 lb. / \$12.50 _____ x \$12.50 = | _____           |
| <b>Order total</b>                 | <b>\$ _____</b> |

Please indicate the number of bags of each seed you would like, total the cost of your order, write *St. Louis Audubon* a check and send it to:

Vicki Flier  
18 Algonquin Woods  
Glendale, MO 63122-2013  
Phone: 314/966-9166

(Checks must be received by Jan. 26. Your check will not be cashed until Feb. 5.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_



# Little Adventures, Warm Memories Remembering Phoebe



By *Marjorie Richardson*

Since the tragic death of Phoebe Snetsinger in Madagascar, my mind has been teaming with memories of her and our many adventures birding together in the St. Louis area and beyond. We were both relatively new birders in the late 1960's and every discovery (not just of birds) was exciting to us and made for lively recall. Here are some observations from my '60's and '70's notes—all trips with Phoebe:

**May '68:** Great fun watching a first year Orchard Oriole bathing in a pool in the middle of a road, with a frog chorus singing from a marsh nearby—and later, watching the granddaddy of all skinks slithering along, while four young ground hogs emerged from a nearby hole in the ground, all in Creve Coeur Park. Great day!

**Spring '69:** Surprised by the very sudden, swift appearance of an unidentified small hawk (Merlin, maybe?) flying right toward us as we sat on a log eating our lunch in a wooded area. Exhilarating!

**July '70:** Investigated a fabulous rookery and a marsh with a family of King Rails, off Highway 111 in Illinois. My notes read: "A lovely morning, with thanks to Phoebe who discovered these places and had to share them with someone."

**Date unknown** (lousy record-keeping!): We discussed the possibility of seeing

Yellow-headed Blackbirds in our area and to our amazement saw one in the very next flock of Redwings and Starling seen along a road in St. Charles County.

**Oct. '72:** We were suddenly wakened by a loud "gaaaaarumphing" right over our heads as we camped out in a two-person tent in Indiana. It was a most emphatic "greeting" from the very birds we had come to visit—Sandhill Cranes!

**Sept. '72:** Good birds at Busch Wildlife Area, but the highlight of the day was a mink chasing a rabbit across a road. The mink soon retraced its steps—without the rabbit!

**Aug. 7, '74:** Celebrated my 50th birthday today with Phoebe at Little Creve Coeur Lake. Acres and acres of lotus blooming, frog choruses singing, Least Bitterns, Little Blues, Great Blues, Green Herons—a few shorebirds and others. A perfect way to celebrate.

**May 25, '76:** Returning from a trip to SW Missouri where we missed all of our target birds, including a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. A sleeping Phoebe suddenly shouted "Scissor-tail on the fence," proving that she was a better birder than I, even in her sleep.

These memories are still vivid after all these years, but "our" Phoebe should be remembered and cherished for much more than her love of birds and achieving a record of more bird sightings than anyone else in the world—approximately 85% of the estimated existing species. She was a warm compassionate person with a strong social conscience. At one time she was a volunteer in the Headstart program in Kirkwood. The children adored her! I also remember, with amusement, taking our funny homemade signs and joining a "March for Cleaner Air" at a government hearing with Senator Eagleton in downtown St. Louis in the early '70's, doing our bit for the environmental movement.

I know that all of us "old timers" will have great stories to tell about being with Phoebe. She was always a comfortable, sensitive, understanding, and fun friend. To me, she had the great, good sense to know

what to say and when to say it. I never knew her to speak ill of anyone. Her excellent scholarship and keen sense of observation made Phoebe very good at anything she attempted. Phoebe received a Master's degree in German literature, wrote beautiful poetry, inspired four children to achieve their best, and created charming puppets for storytelling. She accomplished whatever she wished to do!

This extraordinarily gifted and sensitive woman has left a warm and lasting legacy for all of us who loved her. It almost goes without saying how much she is missed.

*Most of my memories are from our early years of birding together. With slight additions, these remembrances appeared originally in the January 2000 issue of Nature Notes, the journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society.*



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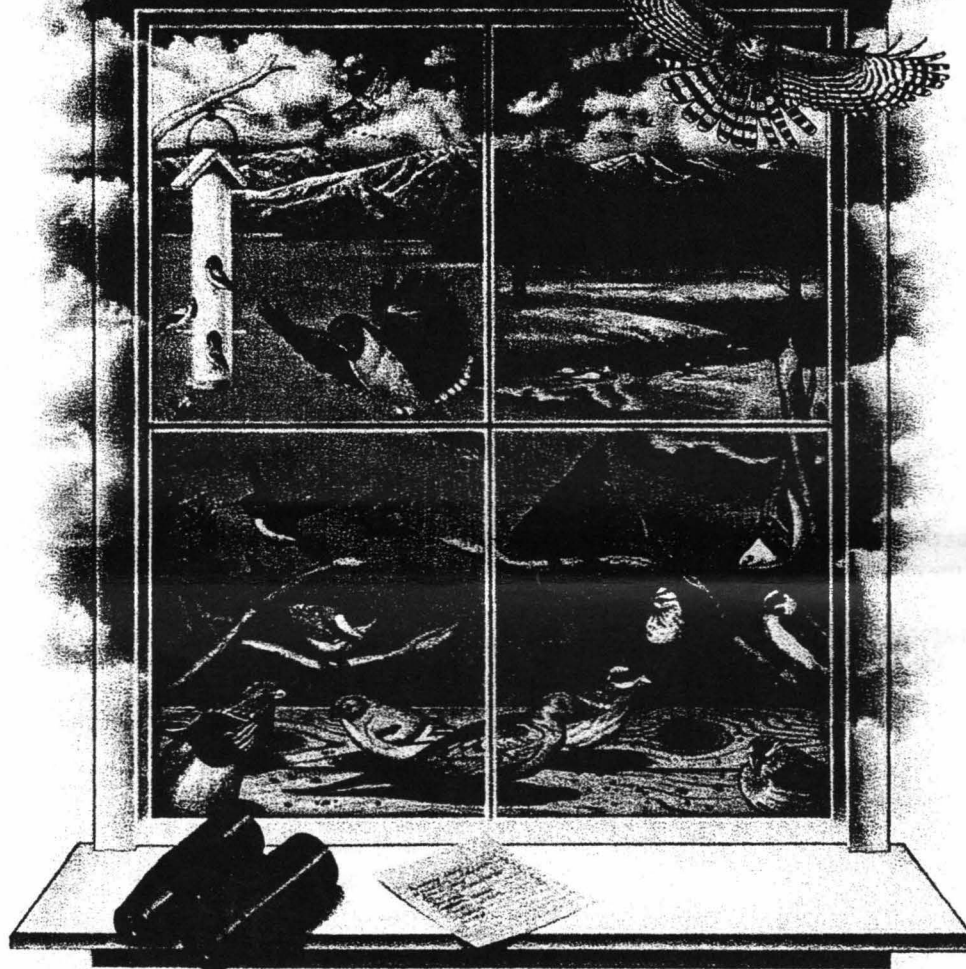
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# In Memory

## Bruce Bryan

By Jim Holsen

Howard (Bruce) Bryan of Webster Groves died of cancer on December 5, 1999. A memorial service was held at the Gerber Chapel on December 11.

Bruce was a longtime member of the St. Louis Audubon Society, serving as vice president with Jerry Miller in the early 1980's. Though he later declined a second appointment to the Audubon board, wanting younger people involved, he continued to help Katherine Chambers and her group of dedicated volunteers assemble and mail our bi-monthly newsletter.

A retired chemical engineer from Monsanto, Bruce's interest included The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, and the Men's Garden Club of Webster Groves. We will miss his participation in the many activities of St. Louis Audubon.

## Phoebe Snetsinger

By Marjorie Richardson

The birding world lost its star birder, St. Louis' own Phoebe Snetsinger. Snetsinger was killed November 23, 1999, in a van accident in Madagascar, after spotting a Helmut vanga, a very rare bird. Phoebe's world travels in pursuit of birds began in earnest in 1981 after her doctor diagnosed her with an incurable cancer and with just a short time to live. As she liked to say, her avian ardor "began with a death sentence." She decided to go on an already scheduled trip to Alaska. As her husband David said, "She came back and felt good. Things just started snowballing from there." And snowball they did! Over 18 years, Phoebe attained a record of sighting nearly 85% of the world's birds! She was quite modest about this remarkable achievement and in a 1996 interview she insisted that she wanted to play down her quantitative quest. "I'm going back to being a birder, not a lister," she said.

Phoebe's scholarly passion for learning as much as possible about every sighting was apparent in her thorough record keeping, much of which will be very valuable to the scientific community. Her articles for various birding journals were always well written and thoroughly researched.

Over the years, her cancer returned occasionally and when, with treatment, it went into remission, she was gone again. Phoebe always felt very fortunate that she was able to pursue this passion in relatively good health, boundless energy and curiosity, and with an inheritance from her father—the founder of an internationally known advertising agency.

On December 28, many of Phoebe's family members, her friends, and fellow birders from St. Louis and beyond gathered for a celebration of her remarkable life. It was a great evening, full of stories and remembrances of being with Phoebe.



# St. Louis Audubon Society

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See page 7 for more information.

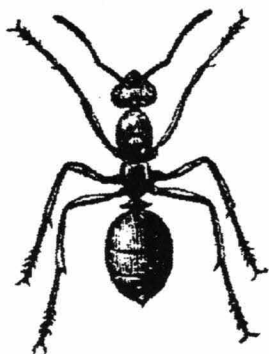
## Local, National, and International Birding Trips

See pages 2, 3, and 5.

## Out of Bird Seed?

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Order form on page 8.



## Bird Projects in Missouri

A talk by Jim Wilson,  
ornithologist.

**Feb. 11, 8 pm at the  
St. Louis County Library,**  
(Lindbergh Blvd. and Clayton Rd.)

See page 1 for more information.

